

## ABSTRACT

The present invention includes a method and system for improved diamond motion search. A method for diamond motion searching a video frame is disclosed which includes predicting the maximum distance that a macroblock may have moved. This maximum distance provides a maximum range in which to consider searching. This "predicted search range" may be used to make assumptions on whether to expect high motion. If high motion is anticipated, the diamond search may be seeded using a large circular pattern for determining a start location and to avoid becoming lost in local minima and then proceeding with the large diamond pattern for motion searching. A method for compressing motion video images is also disclosed. Additionally, a system for transmitting and receiving video images is disclosed. The system for transmitting and receiving video images may be a video conferencing system.

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